

We claim:

- 1 1. A computer implemented method for maintaining information provided by a user,
2 comprising:
3 encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a portion of the
4 session information is not visible to the user;
5 sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of the user;
6 receiving updated session information from the user via the network;
7 decoding the updated session information; and
8 using the decoded session information to create a second web page.
- 1 2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the information provided by
2 the user enables the configuring of a configurable product.
- 1 3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the session information is
2 placed in a hidden form field.
- 1 4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining from
2 the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.
- 1 5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining from
2 the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web session.
- 1 6. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of encoding the
2 session information includes encoding in the first web page all information provided by the user
3 at the time of encoding.
- 1 7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the decoded session
2 information is encoded into the second web page.

1 8. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein information encoded into the
2 second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of
3 encoding.

1 9. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising using the updated
2 session information to determine a configuration result.

1 10. The computer implemented method of claim 9, further comprising using the
2 configuration result to generate the second web page.

1 11. A computer implemented method for configuring a configurable product for a user,
2 comprising:
3 encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a portion of the
4 session information is not visible to the user;
5 sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of a user;
6 receiving updated session information from the user via the network;
7 decoding the updated session information; and
8 using the decoded session information to create a second web page.

1 12. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the session information is
2 placed in a hidden form field.

1 13. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising determining
2 from the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.

1 14. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising determining
2 from the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web session.

1 15. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the step of encoding the
2 session information includes encoding in the first web page all information provided by the user
3 at the time of encoding.

1 16. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the decoded session
2 information is encoded into the second web page.

1 17. The computer implemented method of claim 16, wherein information encoded into
2 the second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of
3 encoding.

1 18. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising using the
2 updated session information to determine a configuration result.

1 19. The computer implemented method of claim 18, further comprising using the
2 configuration result to generate the second web page.

1 20. A computer program product for maintaining information provided by a user,
2 comprising:

3 program code for encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a
4 portion of the session information is not visible to the user;

5 program code for sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of the
6 user;

7 program code for receiving updated session information from the user via the
8 network;

9 program code for decoding the updated session information; and

10 program code for using the decoded session information to create a second web page.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the information provided by the
2 user enables the configuring of a configurable product.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the session information is
2 placed in a hidden form field.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for
2 determining from the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.

1 24. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for
2 determining from the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web
3 session.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the program code for encoding
2 the session information includes program code for encoding in the first web page all information
3 provided by the user at the time of encoding.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the decoded session information
2 is encoded into the second web page.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein information encoded into the
2 second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of
3 encoding.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for
2 using the updated session information to determine a configuration result.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising program code for
2 using the configuration result to generate the second web page.

1 30. A computer implemented method for configuring a configurable product for a user,
2 comprising:

3 receiving at an application server session information from the user via a network;

4 determining at the application server a configuration result based on the session
5 information;

6 encoding the configuration result and the session information in a first web page;

7 sending the first web page via the network to a web browser of the user;

8 deleting the session information and configuration result from the application server;
9 receiving at the application server updated session information from the user via the
10 network;
11 determining at the application server an updated configuration result based on the
12 updated session information;
13 encoding the updated configuration result and updated session information in a
14 second web page;
15 sending the second web page via the network to the web browser of the user; and
16 deleting the updated session information and updated configuration result from the
17 application server.

1 31. The computer implemented method of claim 30, wherein the configuration result and
2 session information are placed in hidden form fields.

1 32. The computer implemented method of claim 30, wherein the updated configuration
2 result and updated session information are placed in hidden form fields.

1 33. The computer implemented method of claim 30, further comprising determining
2 from the session information all information provided by the user in a web session.

1 34. A system for configuring a configurable product, comprising:

2 a user coupled to a network, the user including a web browser, memory and a display;
3 and

4 a server coupled to the network, the server enabled to encode session information
5 received from the user into a web page and to send the web page to the user
6 for storage of the session information.